

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A surgical irrigation system, comprising:
5 a fluid source having an outlet to supply fluid to a pump device, the pump device being constructed and arranged so that fluid connection between the fluid source and the pump device is established only when the pump is held by a support.
2. The system of claim 1 in which;
10 the pump device is connected to the fluid source by a flexible tube through a friction fit in which the coefficient of friction is less than that required to support the weight of the pump.
3. The system of claim 1 in which,
15 the pump device includes an impeller housing with an inlet connection adapted for connection with a tube the inlet cooperating with the tube to provide a fluid flow path from the fluid source to the pump .
4. The system of claim 3 in which the inlet connection extends laterally from the impeller housing.
5. The system of claim 4 wherein the impeller housing further includes a
20 hook for suspension from a pole.
6. The system of claim 1 in which the impeller housing includes dual inlets for connection with separate tubes, wherein the tubes are connected to opposite sides of the fluid source outlet
7. The system of claim 6 wherein the tubes include spikes connected to the
25 fluid source above a seal.
8. The system of claim 6 wherein the tubes include spikes having ends that are matingly engaged when inserted into the fluid source.
9. The system of claim 6 wherein the tubes are connected to the fluid source outlet at vertically spaced locations.
- 30 10. The system of claim 1 further including a pinching device for providing a fluid connection between the fluid source and the pump.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the pinching device is a V-fitting connected to the impeller housing having a tube bonded thereto being constructed and arranged so that the tube is pinched to block fluid flow if the pump device is removed from the support.
12. The system of claim 9 wherein the pinching device is a Y-fitting connected to the impeller housing for connection through two separate tubes to two fluid sources.
13. The system of claim 12 wherein the impeller housing includes a receptacle bonded thereto to which the Y-fitting is connected.
14. The system of claim 10 wherein the pinching device is a W-fitting connected to the impeller housing for connection to two separate tubes for connection to two fluid sources, the W-fitting being constructed and arranged so that the tubes are pinched if the pump device is removed from the support.
15. The system of claim 14 wherein the W-fitting includes a base member and opposed downwardly extending connectors for connection to the tubes.
16. The system of claim 1 wherein the support comprises a carriage including a micro switch that completes an electrical circuit to power the pump device when the carriage is suspended from an IV pole.
17. The system of claim 1 wherein the support comprises a hanging rod having an end connected to the pump device and forming a gravity switch to complete an electrical circuit to provide power to the pump device, the gravity switch being constructed and arranged so that the electrical circuit is completed only when the pump device is supported by the hanging rod.
18. The system of claim 1 wherein the support is a hanging sling.
19. The system of claim 3 further including a slide valve located in the impeller housing for connection with a fluid bag, the slide valve being open only when the pump device is supported in the support.
20. The system of claim 19 wherein the slide valve is slidably connected to the impeller housing so that if the flow detector is removed from the support it will drop under its own weight and slide relative to the slide valve so that the valve closes and prevents fluid flow.

21. The system of claim 1 wherein the fluid source is suspended from a carriage so that a gap exists between the arm of the pole and the top of the fluid bag, the gap preventing the pump from spiking to the fluid bag while hanging.
22. The system of claim 1 wherein the support comprises a bracket.
- 5 23. The system of claim 22 wherein the support comprises an L-bracket.